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York City by steamer to Atlantic Highlands and thence by rail to Asbury Park is operated at frequent intervals, and this will probably be resumed next June. This makes a delightful variety and gives a good view of New York harbor and the Jersey shore. The boat trip takes about an hour, in sight of land all the way.

From Boston the Fall River boat to New York, and the Sandy Hook steamer, thence to Atlantic Highlands, is the most attractive route, leaving Boston Sunday evening and arriving at Asbury Park Monday forenoon.

It is planned to organize a special party from Chicago, but concerning rates and schedules to prevail in June no definite information can be offered at this time. The present railroad fare from Chicago to Asbury Park is \$29.32; Pullman charge, \$4.96 lower berth, \$3.96 upper.

It is not possible at present to ascertain whether any special excursion rates from distant points can be had. The present rate each way is about three cents a mile, rates from various points being now quoted as follows, including war tax:

From Cincinnati, \$24.15; Cleveland, \$16.98; Denver, \$63.04; Detroit, \$20.90; Kansas City, \$42.04; Omaha, \$44.44; St. Louis, \$33.42; St. Paul, \$41.01.

From New York and Boston the present cost of the trip one way (including war tax) is as follows:

From New York, \$1.75 via Pa. R. R.; \$1.62 via Central R. R. of New Jersey or by steamer and rail.

From Boston, \$7.27 via boat; \$9.17 via all rail N. Y. N. H. & H. and Pa. R. R.

Further information will be given in the May Bulletin.

WHAT THEN?*

CHARLES H. COMPTON, *Reference Librarian, Seattle Public Library*

Peace has come. The machinery of war will in due time be largely scrapped or adapted to other uses. In addition to material equipment, we shall have at our disposal new habits of thought, new methods of action. Shall we scrap these also or shall we adapt them to new needs? We could not scrap them if we would. What then?

This is the question I want to ask regarding library war service. It is a large question but it is interesting to try to answer it. I shall base this answer upon my experience of the past few months. It has been a limited experience, not out in the field but at headquarters. However, it has been the biggest experience I have ever had and perhaps it is only natural that I should wish to attempt to interpret it to you in terms of the future.

Library war service started as an idea in someone's mind, perhaps in a number of minds simultaneously. What is more interesting than to watch an idea originate and grow, become the common idea of a group or a profession, and take form in an organization which in turn is modified by coming into contact with the people it serves? Such an idea is library war service.

On April 6, 1917, many in the library profession as in other professions began to ask themselves what they could do to help win the war. It is significant of how blind we were to the opportunity at our very doors when we recall that the Executive Board some eighteen months ago considered seriously whether it was desirable for the American Library Association to hold its annual conference during war time. Nevertheless, when the Association met at Louisville, the idea of library war service had already been conceived and

*Abridgment of an address before the Puget Sound Library Club, December 27, 1918, at Seattle, Washington. Printed in full in *Library Journal*, February, 1919.

all other plans gave way to it. A social idea thrives on enthusiasm and such was the enthusiasm at Louisville that the plans for library war service, which at the beginning of the conference were in a nebulous state, at the end had taken rather definite form. Still at best we saw only through a glass darkly the development that would come. The consensus of opinion seemed to be that the American Library Association was the best agency to provide reading matter for the soldiers. It was recreation, however, that was to be provided and nothing else, the recreation that comes from light, cheerful, exciting books, and our whole purpose would be served if life for the men in service was made more endurable thereby.

This simple conception has been radically changed as the work of library war service has progressed. I hope to show how on the one hand library war service is tending to modify deep-seated traditions of the men and women of the profession and on the other I wish to suggest that the attitude of the men who have been drafted is apt to be changed by their use of and contact with camp libraries.

Let us consider the effect upon librarians of the magnitude of library war service, not perhaps the absolute magnitude but the relative magnitude in comparison with any institution with which librarians have been connected hitherto. In the past, many of us have been accustomed to doing small things in a small way. Library war service has been a big accomplishment both in organization and in things done. We as librarians have the right to be, not unduly proud, but reasonably proud, of the record of fourteen months up to November 1, 1918. Here it is: 45 library buildings in operation; 164 hospitals and Red Cross houses supplied with books, 271 librarians in the service; 191 naval and marine stations and 301 vessels supplied with libraries; 1,608 branches and stations placed in Y. M. C. A. and K. of C. huts, barracks, and mess halls; 844,262 books purchased, largely

technical; 1,361,034 books shipped overseas; 3,394,643 gift books in service. Approximately 450 librarians have to a late date made up the personnel of library war service. Everyone of them from this experience should have a larger outlook, a capacity for thinking in larger terms. Librarians have the habit of wearing a veil of modesty. In spite of warning against taking ourselves too seriously, I maintain that our most serious fault has been our evident incapability of seeing in a large way the possibilities of library service. The service which has been rendered to the men in the camps and on shipboard, in hospital and "Y" hut, has been a real service—it has met a real need upon the part of the men in helping them to prepare themselves for war and to meet the stress of war. Their appreciation has been expressed and has been sincere. It has, I judge, torn away the veils from the faces of many librarians and has made them realize that the book is no small factor either in warfare or life in general.

Camp librarians will receive a broader outlook also from associating with the men of other war work organizations, especially the Y. M. C. A. I have little sympathy with criticism of the Y. M. C. A., but whatever faults may have been charged to it, I never heard anyone say that it was an organization that did not place sufficient importance upon its mission. I am not wishing for librarians exactly the same species of outlook that "Y" men have, but we need decidedly a downright conviction like theirs as to our place in the sun.

There is another influence that will in time have its effect on library personnel—that is the influence of military men and organization. Four hundred and fifty librarians can not associate with military men without getting something of their quick decision which brings immediate action. This is greatly to be desired. We librarians must have Spanish blood in our veins for we are constantly saying "*mañana*"—tomorrow, tomorrow. We are so prone to

want to do things completely—not necessarily well—that when they are done the need is apt to be past. In addition to the veil of modesty that prevents a clear view of the task in hand, we have been bound round and round with indecision and deliberation which at best may be called conservatism. In library war service on the other hand we have been compelled to do things quickly if we would do them at all and the momentum of the war machine as a whole has driven us on. This should have its due effect in energizing the library profession and in stimulating librarians at times to take a chance even at the risk of losing the hitherto too carefully guarded reputation of the profession.

Turning from the effect upon librarians themselves, let us consider what effect library war service will have upon the soldiers and sailors. What have books really done for them during the war? Some men perhaps will have acquired a taste for good reading, but probably to most of them the fiction and even the poetry they have read will be a pleasant memory only. The influence that books of another character would have is more evident. It has seemed to me that perhaps part of the reason why Americans fought so intelligently and so well is because more than in any previous war, they were better informed and knew for what they were fighting. The American Library Association has supplied approximately 200,000 war books, including personal narratives, books on the causes of the war, books on the Allies and their countries, books on the dangers to democracy. These books have been read and have been in great demand by the men. It is reasonable to infer that such books have been read by the more thoughtful, by the leaders both among the officers and the men. The ideas in these books have been spread by these selfsame leaders and certainly must have had some weight in tipping the scales for democracy.

But if we want to look at the matter in the most practical way imaginable, let us

consider the books on actual warfare that have been supplied to the men. Approximately 900,000 books were purchased by the American Library Association previous to the signing of the armistice; fully seventy-five per cent of the amount expended was for strictly military books and for books on technical subjects that have a direct bearing on warfare—books on machine guns, explosives, strategy, aviation, topography, trench warfare, submarines, bridge building, roads, railroads, plumbing, sanitation. The men in the army and navy who used these books did so with one purpose, to make themselves better fighters. By studying they have advanced from privates to noncoms, from lieutenants to captains and further. Probably most of the men who have thus advanced had never used libraries before and they are going to have a due respect for books.

Library war service should prove of even more vital value during the period of reconstruction and demobilization than during the war itself. I wish I could give you more definite information regarding this, but I know that we are now going ahead with the purchase of approximately a half million books especially to meet the needs of the educational program that the Y. M. C. A. has under way in France. There will be approximately 1,000 libraries of 500 titles each. Some of these books are being especially manufactured for this purpose. Even before I left Washington, we were ordering for overseas books on many vocational subjects, such as factory management, agriculture, bee-keeping, forestry, and many technical trades. These were for men who wished to keep up to date on the work which they had done previous to entering the army or for men to whom the army had opened up new trades or occupations.

Many books describing European countries have already been sent overseas and I hope and expect that many more will follow. These are the countries with which in the future we will have the closest re-

lationship. There is much discussion as to the influence that two million returned soldiers will have on the body politic. It is perfectly possible to imagine that they would not bring back much, at least little that is desirable, unless they came to understand and sympathize with the thought and customs of other peoples. On the other hand, their contact with the men and women of France, England, and Italy, supplemented with books of the right nature, should enable them to return to America with a great contribution in fresh views of life, of literature, of art, things which America to a large degree has not even recognized that she needed.

If we establish libraries among the two million soldiers in France, is it not possible that the public library as we know it will establish itself in France and other countries? France, ever since the beginning of the war in 1914, has been looking towards the establishment of public libraries following the close of the war. We should have the opportunity of demonstrating such an institution in their midst during the next year. In this day when all the world has become predominantly democratic and a community of nations bids fair to become a reality, an institution like the public library common to all countries should prove par excellence a medium for the exchange of national and international ideals. In every country the library should be known as an institution where knowledge is as free as the air itself and with the library's reputation, already pretty well established, of being an institution that does not restrict thought but encourages its dissemination, it should perhaps prove a bulwark for society in the structure of international democracy that is now erecting itself.

Whether librarians are equal to the opportunity which is theirs will largely depend on two things—organization and morale. Two departments have been developed in library war service which I think have possibilities for libraries as a whole. The first one is a central book pur-

chasing agency for libraries. This is in reality what is being maintained by the A. L. A. for camp libraries. Although the problem for public libraries would be more complicated, still I think it could be worked out with considerable saving and increased efficiency. Let me explain the organization of the book department of the library war service at the present time and see if it would not appear feasible to adopt it: Sample copies of new books are examined and such as are deemed desirable are ordered, one copy for each large camp library. After receiving the one copy, it is left to the individual camp librarian to order additional copies. It seems to me that it would be possible to extend the service of the staff of the *Booklist* so that in many cases it could thus make the actual selection of many new titles for public libraries.

The bulk of the orders coming to headquarters were not for new books but rather requests from camp librarians for actual titles of the best books on subjects specified. With actual titles requested it was merely a question of eliminating those which it was deemed inadvisable to purchase. However, in selecting the best books on subjects, much of which work we did, I feel that a central purchasing agency could be of great assistance to public libraries. For many libraries without adequate bibliographical aids it is extremely difficult to make selections intelligently. A staff of experts in book selection, especially those with a knowledge of technical books, would be of great aid to libraries that are trying to meet the needs of technical men but that do not have library assistants specially trained for technology library work.

Librarians are always trying to get more liberal discounts from book publishers and book dealers. If there were a purchasing agency in New York, which is the publishers' center of the country, we would be in a position to obtain the lowest possible discounts. Library war service has, as you know, received from most publish-

ers fifty per cent discount. This is liberal on their part and probably does not give them sufficient margin for a permanent basis, but nevertheless publishers can fill orders in New York at appreciably less than in other cities, on account of the cost of traveling salesmen and other overhead expenses. Libraries in the United States at the present time are spending annually about three million dollars for books. To get liberal discounts books must be bought in quantity. This would be possible by having a dispatch office in New York such as library war service now maintains. At the present time the New York Dispatch Office keeps in stock available for camp libraries about 20,000 books. For libraries as a whole the number of titles would need to be enlarged, but I see no reason why such a dispatch office should not prove practical for public libraries. Take for example the popular copyrights of Grosset and Burt that libraries use in great numbers. I went to New York to purchase \$20,000 worth of these at one time and later we placed an additional order of \$40,000. From this experience I feel sure that libraries could get quantity prices if we would purchase in large quantities. I think it is possible that from \$200,000 to \$500,000 might be saved annually by dealing with publishers through a central purchasing agency with a dispatch office maintained by it.

The other point in organization is that of a central publicity bureau for libraries. I think I can take it for granted that you are all familiar with this idea, as it originated here in the Pacific northwest. Library war service has done much to demonstrate the value of such a publicity bureau. The publicity during our two financial campaigns and the publicity carried on continuously by the publicity department at headquarters has done more in one year to bring libraries to the attention of the public than has been done in the past ten years. Several of the men who have been at headquarters, a number of whom are members of the Publicity Com-

mittee of the A. L. A., have felt that it would be thoroughly regrettable if we should lose the value of this publicity. We should go ahead rather than lag behind now that peace is here. I am more than ever convinced that if libraries are ever to come to their own we must have such a bureau, which will constantly be spreading the news of the service which libraries can render.

The matter of organization is important to an army—to librarians—but what of morale? I hope library war service will be a leaven which will leaven the mass of librarians as a whole. Why should I hesitate to express my feelings, when to think of my experience at headquarters is to thrill with the pleasure of it? To a casual observer nothing thrilling would be seen by looking in upon the headquarters staff. There we were, fifty of us, a dozen typewriters, and as many electric fans making their customary noise; desks piled with correspondence and work being carried on with a rush and under pressure—no time to waste, as we must keep ahead of the game. Much of the work was detail—not especially interesting, some might think, but it was the spirit of the work which made it all so fascinating. Some of us often worked twelve hours a day, seven days a week, not because we were driven but because we could not resist the push and go.

The headquarters organization was divided into departments as follows: Large camps, small camps, hospital libraries, publicity, overseas, and book departments. Many of the problems were entirely new and the organization had to be built up as new problems arose, as new opportunities for service offered. There were no hard and fast rules. Never have I worked in an organization where the spirit was so splendid, the coöperation so perfect. It was a joy to work there, it was an inspiration that I hope will stay with me always. The spirit was there, not especially because of the personnel of the headquarters staff, but because of the big-

ness of the work in hand. The thing itself that we were trying to do was so large, the opportunities so tremendous, the need for service so urgent, that it seemed impossible for pettiness to raise its head among us. There was the same spirit, the same enthusiasm, shown by the camp librarians at the Saratoga conference. They were interested, they were tremendously interested, which was shown at their round table meetings. They were doing vital things; they knew it and their work was enlarging their own capabilities.

I have called this paper "What then?" Perhaps it should be called "What now?" for probably it will be a matter of only a few months until library war service is a thing of the past. We as librarians have the largest opportunities that have ever faced us. We more nearly have the public confidence than ever before. The time is ours if we can only grasp the possibilities, if we can only see things big enough. If we can only see things big enough I believe we will be equal to the work at hand.

I want to quote from "In the fourth year," by H. G. Wells. This was written before peace had come but there is the same clear vision now as then:

"I am a man who looks now towards the end of life; fifty-one years have I scratched off from my calendar, another slips by, and

I cannot tell how many more of the sparse remainder of possible years are really mine. I live in days of hardship and privation, when it seems more natural to feel ill than well; without holidays or rest or peace; friends and the sons of my friends have been killed; death seems to be feeling always now for those I most love; the newspapers that come into my house tell mostly of blood and disaster, of drownings and slaughterings, of cruelties and base intrigues. Yet never have I been so sure that there is a divinity in man and that a great order of human life, a reign of justice and world-wide happiness, of plenty, power, hope, and gigantic creative effort, lies close at hand. Even now we have the science and the ability available for a universal welfare, though it is scattered about the world like a handful of money dropped by a child, even now there exists all the knowledge that is needed to make mankind universally free and human life sweet and noble. We need but the faith for it, and it is at hand; we need but the courage to lay our hands upon it and in a little space of years it can be ours."

We as librarians need but the faith for it and it is at hand—we need but the courage to lay our hands upon it and in a little space of years it can be ours. Books can help win the war, the war for universal and true democracy, a democracy based upon intelligence, based upon the service which public libraries are even now rendering, but which they should render more abundantly.

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY CATALOGS, REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS*

J. C. M. HANSON, *Associate Director, University of Chicago Libraries*

As a result of pressure, chiefly from administrative offices in the University of Chicago, for the extension and development of the collection of catalogs of colleges, universities and other institutions of higher learning, an effort was made in April, 1918, to learn something of the principles and practice obtaining in other large universi-

ties with respect to this particular class of publications.

A circular letter was accordingly sent out, containing three questions:

1. Is it your practice to collect, catalog, and preserve the catalogs of as many colleges, universities and other higher schools as possible, or only those of a limited number, e. g., from 50 to 100 of the more important?
2. Approximately how many feet of actual books are shelved under the class "Universities and colleges," assum-

*Notes assembled as a basis for discussion by the College and Reference Section at the Saratoga Springs Conference. For lack of time the topic was not then considered.